

Shigeki TAMAI
Serial No. 09/472,816

REMARKS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 4 – 6 and 9 and the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 14 – 16.
2. Cancel claims 1-3, 5 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.
3. Rewrite claims 14 and 16 as independent claims, thereby rendering claims 14 – 16 allowable.
4. Rewrite claim 10 as an independent claim, including limitations of (now cancelled) claims 1 and 5.
5. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections (see section B infra).

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 4 – 6 and 9 are allowed; claims 14 – 16 are allowable in view, e.g., of the amendments described in §A.3 supra. Of the remaining claims (8, 10 – 11, 12 – 13, 17 – 20), claims 8, 10, 12, and 19 are independent claims.

Each of remaining claims 8, 10 – 11, 12 – 13, 17 – 20 are directed to an overall LCD panel module and as such include limitations such as the first substrate, the second substrate, and a "step region". Concerning the step region, note (for example) that dependent claims 8 and 10 both require:

liquid-crystal driving wiring which is provided in the step region of the first, second glass substrates, and to which the output leads of the individual liquid-crystal-panel driver IC packages disposed so as to be arrayed along the step region are electrically connected; and (emphasis added)

Similarly, independent claim 12 recites:

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wiring for driving the liquid crystals being provided in the step region;
plural driver integrated circuit (IC) packages situated in the step region,
(emphasis added)

The semiconductor element 3 of JP Patent 01-251079 to Maehara et al does not appear to be in anything comparable to a step region as claimed by Applicants. While the wiring 6 of Maehara may arguably be on an edge of one of the substrates near the other substrate, the package or driver IC itself is not in a step but on an underside of a substrate and the package or driver IC is a separate element of the claim which is distinct from the wiring itself.

Thus, in the applied JP '079 to Maehara, the liquid crystal driver IC packages are not located in the step region but instead are located below the larger substrate. Therefore, the whole device of the Maehara becomes undesirably thicker as compared to Applicant's device. Applicant's device is thinner because Applicant's liquid crystal driver IC packages are located in the step region.

Therefore, the applied references do not teach or suggest the limitations of the rejected claims. Accordingly, the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application, including but not limited to extension of time fees.

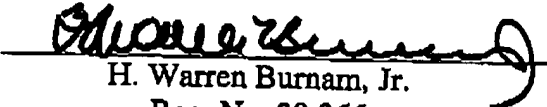
Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:


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